

## CATTLE FEEDING NEW INDUSTRY HERE

### El Paso A Recognized Cattle Market

### A PACKING PLANT IS CERTAIN

Mexican Importations During Year of Intercine Warfare Over \$2,000,000.

HOG RAISING IS BEING STARTED

As Soon as Hog Industry Is Large Enough, Packing Plant Is Assured.

BY G. A. MARTIN.  
EL PASO as a cattle center is outdone by no city in the country in size and by few several times larger. As the future cattle market of the Great Southwest, El Paso will be undisputed master of the situation. With Mexico torn by war, the cattle importations last year from that country totaled \$2,458,326, and Mexico, even though the normal times of peace, contributes but a share of the cattle brought to the El Paso market. West Texas, Arizona and New Mexico all find a market in El Paso.

Within the past year, Morris & Co. have completed large yards and a handsome exchange building. This company has also entered the El Paso banking field by purchasing the control of the American Bank and Trust company.

**Packing Plant Assured.**  
A packing plant is the logical outcome of the present situation and several packers have informed El Pasoans that such a plant will be erected here as soon as the valley above and below El Paso contribute sufficient hogs, an essential part of the necessary supply of animals for the success of such a plant. These are now being raised in large numbers and it is not without the range of possibilities that a packing plant will be started here before the calendar brings us 1917.

El Paso is the headquarters of the Panhandle and Southwestern Cattlemen's association, one of the largest in the country, and is the home of many wealthy cattlemen owning ranches in the states surrounding.

**Cattlemen from Everywhere.**  
Next week El Paso will entertain the delegates to the American National Livestock association, the largest cattlemen's organization in the world, and this city has several times entertained the Texas Cattle Raisers' association and is the home of W. W. Turner, a former president. It is the home of J. H. Nations, present president of the Panhandle and Southwestern association.

During their meeting here the American National convention delegates will discuss the matter of erecting a string of independent packing plants throughout the country, to compete with the "meat trust" and in that event, one of the first plants to be erected would be put up in El Paso.

With the greatest area of free range open about El Paso of any other livestock center in the United States, with the profitable feeding business that has been undertaken here, with the great Mexican cattle lands to draw from, El Paso has everything in its favor as a cattle market and is so recognized by the biggest men in the business.

**Cattle Near El Paso.**  
It is estimated that 15,000,000 cattle are on the ranges in the territory, of which 10,000,000 are in Mexico, and about 5,000,000 in Arizona, New Mexico, West Texas and the Texas Panhandle. The past year has been a prosperous

one for the cattlemen of the Southwest. Good prices have prevailed in every section, the prices being governed very largely by the market in El Paso. Reports from Arizona indicate that the cattlemen could have sold more cattle to feeders if they had had them. The same is true of New Mexico, West Texas and the Panhandle. The year started out well, with lots of rain and snow to put the ranges in good condition. Then, during the summer, good rains fell that kept the ranges and pastures in good condition. The result was that the stock were in fine fettle and commanded good prices everywhere.

**Prosperity Among Cattlemen.**  
It is doubtful if there has ever been a more prosperous year for the cattlemen of the Southwest. From every section of El Paso's territory came reports of prosperous conditions—good demand, good ranges and fat stock—and the prosperity of the cattle interests contributed very largely to the general prosperity of the Southwest. Cattlemen, who for years had been struggling to get ahead, found buyers eager for their herds, and many a mortgage was wiped out by the insistent demand for range cattle. The same prosperity, it seems, has not come to the feeders and the danger that in the future the producers will suffer, is a matter that will receive attention at the coming meeting of the American National Livestock association and a matter that will undoubtedly be discussed at other cattlemen's meetings during the next few months.

**More Cattle Being Fed.**  
More cattle are being fed in the Southwest than ever before. It is also true that stockmen and farmers are more and more importing blooded stock in an effort to improve the breed and develop the dairy industry. A development of the year of more than passing interest in El Paso was the coming of Morris & Co. and the establishment by them of large stock yards in this city. The concern is known as the El Paso Union Stock Yards company. The company's holdings are located on 22 acres of land near the river, and an investment of about \$100,000 was made. According to a representative of the company, the capacity of the yards is about 25,000 animals, or 12,500 cattle and 10,000 sheep, horses, mules and other animals. During the spring an exchange office building costing about \$10,000 was built. The company also operates the Santa Fe stockyards. The southwestern yards, operated for some time by the Cameron Cattle company, were abandoned in May, but the pens of the Union Stock Yards company and the Southern yards, operated by the same concern, have been remodeled and were in use throughout the year. These yards are located on the line of the G. H. & S. A. in East El Paso and have a capacity of about 3500 cattle.

During the summer a corporation known as the National Stock Yards company was started, permission by the city to build yards on property adjoining that of Morris & Co. The enterprise, however, has not yet developed.

**El Paso's Heavy Receipts.**  
How extensively El Paso figures in the livestock business of the Southwest and Mexico is indicated by the number of animals handled at the various stockyards during the course of a year. In 1915, despite conditions in Mexico and the foot and mouth disease quarantine that was maintained by Texas against the world for a time, during the spring, 23,467 head of cattle, 31,945 head of sheep, 6575 head of horses and mules and 4161 head of hogs were handled at the El Paso Union Stock Yards and the Union Stock yards.

The business, by months, at the yards of the Union Stock Yards company was as follows:

Month	Cattle	Sheep	Horses	Mules	Hogs
January	8,922	6,277	129	42	284
February	8,422	5,473	122	34	254
March	6,515	4,743	107	28	208
April	6,872	5,129	242	28	228
May	5,841	2,748	205	20	201
June	12,824	8,182	419	56	560
July	9,642	324	242	59	59
August	8,160	7,469	146	111	111
September	19,121	218	112	111	111
October	17,578	7,313	112	181	181
November	12,169	1,118	25	25	25
December	2,128	1,025	283	521	521
Total	113,921	36,177	4,683	685	685

The El Paso Union Stock Yards company did not get its yards into operation until March. However, the company did a large business after the

### KARAKUL SHEEP ARE RAISED IN VALLEY

Man Who Brought Them From Russia is Establishing Industry Here.

FUR BRINGS A SPLENDID PRICE

Sheep May Be Crossed With American Lincolns With Excellent Results.

BY DR. C. C. YOUNG.  
THE El Paso valley promises to become the greatest breeding place of domesticated fur-bearing animals in the country. The Karakul sheep has been tested and tried here and in the next few years, I believe the industry will be a thriving one and that the El Paso valley will be supplying not only a great amount of commercial skins—fur—but will also be supplying breeders for this continent and others.

It is established that the sheep do well here. Experiments of the past several years have demonstrated this. Arrangements are now complete for financing and putting the industry upon a commercial basis with every prospect of great success. We experienced no little difficulty in establishing a Karakul industry in the valley, but finally succeeded in interesting two of the most prominent financiers of El Paso, and a movement is now on foot which we believe will result in the formation of a strong company.

Ranchers are to be given a chance to purchase Astrakhan and mutton producing rams for \$50, and domestic ewes will be supplied at a most reasonable price when this industry is well established. It should furnish the nucleus for revolutionizing the sheep industry and should also have a marked effect upon the importation of certain furs.

**The Karakul in America.**  
Sheep have been raised in America because of their value for meat and for wool to supply the prime human necessities of food and clothing. It has been customary to clip the wool off the hide and weave the cloth. So universal is this practice in modern western civilization that it is sometimes almost forgotten, or unknown, that sheep skin, or sheep fur (often referred to as "peasant fur") forms the chief article of clothing with many people.

In many districts in southeastern Europe and in Asia people clothe themselves in sheep skins, and the most beautiful and costly of all are those taken off the very young lambs of the Karakul breeds of sheep of Bokhara, of West Turkestan, and of Russia and Central Asia. These skins are named Persian lamb, Astrakhan and broadtail or baby lamb by the furriers of Europe and America. They are used principally for women's coats, muffs, stoles and cloaks, and men's coats, collars, cuffs and caps; also for laprobes in automobiles.

**Lambskin Furs.**  
A study of American imports reveals the important fact that the wearing of these lambskins has become so popular in America that \$14,000,000 are expended annually for importations, as stated in a United States government bulletin on Karakul sheep. One New

### THE NEW ROBERTS-BANNER BUILDING



Above is the architect's drawing for the new Roberts-Banner building, to be erected on the southwest corner of Mills and Stanton streets. The building shown adjoining is the new Lanier building, being erected for the Rogers Furniture company, now nearly completed.

York house, Theodore Thorer, alone imports more than 250,000 skins yearly. During past seasons it has been demonstrated that these furs can be produced in America and Great Britain, where none has ever been produced before, and the quality is declared by furriers to be fully equal to the best produced in Bokhara itself. Moreover, several years' experience has proved that the sheep are much harder than native sheep in withstanding both climate and disease. On their first arrival in America they were ranches in Texas, but later were removed to Canada, the home of fur farming.

**Sheep Well Tested.**  
The extremes of temperature and effects of environment on the health have thus been sufficiently tested. A herd has been customarily maintained on the British government farms in Inverness-shire, Scotland, as well as at the United States government farm at Beltsville, Md., and in several other states, including New York and Coahuila, Mexico, where the little Indian coarse wool gave good results. The British and United States experts in charge of the experiments attest to their great value and the health and vigor of the animals. They state that no more interesting work is under their charge and gladly affirm the greatest possibilities of the industry.

A few score years ago the Merino sheep were brought from Spain to Great Britain and taken thence to Australia. (The first Merino brought to the United States cost \$5000.) They were quite inferior then to the magnificent Merinos and Ramboulllets of the present day, which are their direct descendants, improved by selection.

**Improving the Fur.**  
Dr. Robert Wallace, of the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, who has charge of the Karakul sheep breeding in Great Britain, stated in a bulletin written for the British department of agriculture that similar selection of

breeding animals from a sufficient number of the best of the Karakul sheep in Bokhara would produce, after several generations a much better and more beautiful type of fur on the Karakul lambs than anything produced in Asia, eventually effecting an improvement comparable with that effected in the Merino breed. Great Britain and the United States possessed the breeding experts, and all that was required to begin the work was a first class selection from the sheep in Bokhara. The production of a fancy grade of Persian lamb fur promised such extraordinary profits that a company was formed to purchase all the animals of value already brought to America, by me in 1908 and 1913, and having at last secured sufficient funds and the very necessary recommendations, I proceeded to Petrograd. There I found it was becoming generally understood in agricultural circles that the quality of Persian lamb was declining yearly, owing to the entire absence of application of breeding principles to improve the Karakul breeds of sheep.

**The Industry Degenerating.**  
It was known that as the sheep are herded (there are no fences in Bokhara), and the present day flocks consist almost wholly either of mutton or wool sheep, such as the Afghan fine wools, the Achari and Chalmi fat rump, etc., that dilution of the Karakul blood was proceeding very rapidly. The result of crossing with non-fur producing sheep was to breed out lambs whose skins did not possess the most valuable tight, close, wavy curls of great lustre so much sought by furriers.

The Russian government, after consultation with several Russian authorities and myself, decided to make an effort to save the Karakul industry by collecting the best flock obtainable and placing them on a farm where selective breeding would produce a superior strain. I had the

honor to be chosen as one of the commissioners to select the sheep for the Samarkand experimental station and make a report on the industry to the Russian government.

**Perfect Sheep Secure.**  
A selection of rams and ewes from the remotest sections of Bokhara was made for my herd in America. It was considered that better specimens could be found at the outlying points than at the districts near the railway where the Russians made their collection and the chances of securing unrelated sheep would be better. A herd of some 20 rams and 21 ewes was eventually secured and transported 4000 miles to Kizilves in European Russia in July, 1914. I hurried half of the flock to Lillau on the Baltic sea, and shipped them to New York on the Russian S. S. Tverik on July 29. The ship was in the North sea when the German fleet bombarded and burned the port from which my shipment had sailed. However, they escaped and have since been released from the quarantine station at Baltimore.

**To Improve the Breed.**  
This herd will insure a sufficient supply of the best foundation blood and provide animals with no tie of relationship whatsoever. We know from experience that close inbreeding makes the wool fibre finer and thus induces a more open "curl" in the lamb skin, even though the sheep are not physically weakened. Open curled furs are named by the furriers Astrakhan, and is the result usually of the dilution of Karakul blood by crossing in fine or soft wooled sheep, such as Afghans, Merinos or Shropshires. He requires at least two crosses to obtain same results that are obtained from first crosses with coarse wools. The production of Astrakhan is general in European Russia, Asia Minor, Transcaucasia and even in west Turkestan itself, where the average quality of lambskins produce a superior strain. I had the

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## MONEY IN FEEDING VALLEY CROPS

Hay That Formerly Went to Waste Is Now Being Used to Advantage.

DAIRYING ALSO NEW INDUSTRY

Upper Valley Farmers Are Now Trucking Milk to El Paso for Butter.

BY G. A. MARTIN.  
CATTLE feeding is the latest profitable industry that has sprung up in the Rio Grande valley above and below El Paso.

By feeding their forage to cows, calves and steers the farmers are utilizing a profit that formerly went to waste. Some have taken up dairying with profit, but many are feeding cattle for beef or for breeding purposes. Hay that formerly was burned in the field because it would not classify high enough for shipment is now being turned into beef. Farmers are getting as much as \$7 a ton for alfalfa that has been discarded by a shower of rain before it could be gathered up and baled, where in former years they piled it in the field and set fire to it.

Many farmers, realizing that if the feeders can buy their hay at \$7 a ton, feed it to cattle and make a profit on it, that there should be more profit to the grower if he used it to feed his own cattle, are buying cattle on their own account and feeding them, numbering their purchases in accordance with the available amount of forage they have for feeding. As a result of this move, many farms in the upper valley in particular are this year feeding from half a dozen cows, heifers or steers upwards to several dozen. Some have decided that the milk cow pays better than the beef animal and are feeding cows and selling the milk.

**Some Are Dairying.**  
The "west side," residing on the river west of Anthony, which is 20 miles north of El Paso, have formed an association, purchased a truck and are daily marketing their milk in El Paso. This milk is all being bought by the El Paso dairy, which is turning much of it into the newly marketed "Friede of El Paso" butter, the first ever made for the market in this city by a firm. As the dairying business increases, it is the plan of the dairy management to enlarge the plant and inaugurate a wholesale distribution of El Paso butter.

The alfalfa and other forage which is being fed to cattle in the valley, is in many cases just as good as the hay that has escaped the rain, but because of the color, it falls to get a market and feeding it at home was the logical solution, but strange to say, it was not attempted until very recently. Tolbert brothers, of El Paso, were the pioneer feeders in the valley and they have been established but a few months, so it may be seen that cattle

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## HERD OF BLACK FACES BEING FED ON EL PASO VALLEY HAY, NEAR HERE

